

State Prison Inmates Help To Keep Indiana Beautiful

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Governor Mitch Daniels

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J. David Donahue, Commissioner

Indianapolis, Indiana (March 8, 2006) - The Indiana Department of Correction announced that more than 200 state inmates will assist with spring clean up efforts along interstate highways over the next three weeks. The inmates will focus on removing trash from local highways, byways and community areas identified by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Indianapolis Department of Public Works.

"Indiana is committed to building and maintaining the best roads and infrastructure possible, said Governor Mitch Daniels. "This includes keeping the areas around our roads and highways beautiful so that Hoosiers and guests can be proud of our state."

This DOC initiative was created to promote an on-going commitment of keeping Indiana's landscape clean and to provide offenders a continued opportunity to provide valuable services to the community. DOC staff will be overseeing work crews from 32 state facilities who will assist with clean up efforts.

"Our interstate highways will welcome many people to Indianapolis for March Madness", said Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson. "Because of this clean up effort, our visitors will have a great first impression of our city."

INDOT will provide vests, gloves and trash bags for the work crews and will also be responsible for disposing of the trash.

We're proud to be part of the clean up effort, remarked INDOT Commissioner Thomas Sharp. We work with DOC on many joint projects during the year, but this one is special. This spring cleaning is about

making Indiana look good to the world.

In 2005, the work crew program was expanded to include crews at each state prison to be designated for litter pick up five days a week, weather permitting.

"The Governor's desire and commitment to give Indiana's landscape a makeover - a cleaner state for Hoosiers and our visitors - is a great step", said J. David Donahue, Commissioner of the Department of Correction. "The Department appreciates the opportunity to engage work crew resources towards this positive clean up effort."

"Commissioner Sharp's support is instrumental in completing this project", added Donahue. "Team work and inter-agency cooperation has allowed for an improved image of Indiana."

While litter clean-up is a major priority for the DOC and its crews, local communities have requested the help of work crews to accomplish a variety of duties including trail clearing, landscape improvements, tornado clean up, park maintenance, furniture refinishing and repairing, and janitorial duties. Non-profit organizations and local communities interested in scheduling any work crews should contact their state prison.

In 2005, DOC work crews provided more than 850,000 hours of community service.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.